

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
ADVISORY BOARD  
FEBRUARY 26, 2002**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Chair Geri Clark, Vice-Chair Wayne Arnold, Norman Blanco, Jason Curtis, Brian Hierholzer (arrived 6:35 p.m.), Katherine Montgomery (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Kitty Preziosi, and Denis Shaw. Also in attendance were Assistant Town Clerk Barbara McDaniel and Clerk Nina Valdez recording the meeting. Lynette Brown, Richelle Gilhauley, and Zel Veaser were absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 22, 2002

Vice-Chair Arnold made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanco, to accept the minutes of November 27, 2001. In a voice vote, with Ms. Brown, Ms. Gilhauley, Mr. Hierholzer, Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Vesser being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0)

Chair Clark passed the gavel and made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtis, to move item 4.1 forward. In a voice vote, with Ms. Brown, Ms. Gilhauley, Mr. Hierholzer, Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Vesser being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0).

4.1 The Board discussed the memorandum from Ms. McDaniel regarding the Telephone Action Request forms. They were as follows:

1. Kim Hermelyn - In the Town Engineer Larry Peters' memorandum to Development Services Director Mark Kutney, it was determined the estimated cost for the 800 linear feet of trail would be \$10,000. Mr. Peters could not identify a budget item to cover the cost and recommended that the Board should make a recommendation to provide funds in the upcoming budget. Chair Clark questioned whether the trail could fall under the Open Space fund. Ms. McDaniel responded that she would ask Town Administrator Tom Willi to review the suggestion.
2. Norm Blanco - Norman Blanco introduced Africa Jimenez, one of the dog bite victims, and Dario Jimenez, the handyman for Villas of Arista Park as translator for Ms. Jimenez. Mr. Blanco distributed a letter from his neighbors, Kevin and Kathy Sommers, who had witnessed the dog running loose and its aggressive behavior. He explained that the second woman who was bit by the dog, Anna Marino, was on vacation for three weeks and unavailable to attend the meeting.

Chief Police John George provided a copy of the police report along with the Code for the Board's review. He stated that there were provisions in the Town's Code for such issues to be taken before the Special Master when there were continuous problems with vicious dogs. Chief George stated that a similar incident had recently gone before the Special Master with dog owner Sarah Rich. He explained that four out of five of her dogs were put to sleep and one was returned.

Chief George was unaware that there were two dog bite incidents and would investigate to see if a second report had been filed. If there was not a report filed, he would file one and forward it to the Code Compliance Division to take action.

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Mr. Shaw advised that the reason the Board had asked for the officer's name who responded to the dog bite incident was because there was concern that the officer may have been related to the owner of the dog. Chief George responded that he was not aware of any relationship.

Chair Clark questioned Chief George if an officer responded to a dog bite incident, was the officer required to contact Broward County's Animal Control Division. Chief George responded that the officer was only required to contact Animal Control if the dog was not licensed.

Chief George stated that one of the Community Policing Officers spoke to the owner of the dog and completed an incident report. He also stated that if there were multiple issues with the same pattern, then it would be referred to Code Compliance. Chief George stated that he would assign someone to follow-up on this incident.

Mr. Blanco stated that he would notify Chief George when Ms. Marino returned from vacation. He also stated that he did not believe Ms. Marino had filed a police report.

Chair Clark stated that Mr. Blanco had advised that the police were called because a neighbor had threatened the owners of the dog with bodily harm. She questioned Chief George if the next shift of police officers would have been informed of the incident that occurred during the previous shift. Chief George stated that a dog bite might be considered a routine call and not carried over to the next shift. He also stated that if there had been a fight at the scene, then that would be carried over. Chief George stated that there was a report on file regarding the incident between the neighbor and the owner of the dog, and that neither neighbor wanted to sign the affidavit for prosecution purposes. The report would remain on file in the event one of the neighbors wanted to prosecute.

Code Compliance Supervisor Daniel Stallone advised that his division had been successful in resolving problems regarding dogs running at large and dog bites. Mr. Blanco advised that usually there were by-laws that would limit the number of pets an owner could have in an association type development.

Chair Clark advised Ms. Jimenez that the Code Compliance Department would be investigating the issue to resolve the problem. Chief George stated that Ms. Jimenez had the right to sue the owners of the dog with a civil suit in small claims court for disfigurement from the bite.

Ms. Jimenez wanted to note that she was concerned about the many children who play in that neighborhood and their safety.

Chief George advised Mr. Blanco that if the matter went before the Special Master, the victims need to testify.

Mr. Stallone advised that he has had inspectors driving through the area looking for dogs running at large. He advised that if anyone wanted to testify in front of the Special Master, they should contact the Code Compliance Division. Mr. Stallone stated that with the police report on the original bite, he believed that a final order could be entered and the initial stage of having the animals removed could begin. He

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also stated that he would be contacting the Broward County Animal Regulation Division to become involved with this matter. Mr. Stallone would also be contacting the witnesses, Mr. & Mrs. Sommers, regarding the dog bite incident.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**3.1 Study Circle**

Chair Clark stated that the Town Attorney Monroe Kiar had given a favorable legal opinion for the Board to create subcommittees for the sole purpose of meeting for fact finding meetings. She stated that she would provide copies to the Board members.

Sherman Mosely, Community Relations Coordinator from the Broward County Human Rights Division, started the Study Circle by helping the Board set ground rules which were: respect the views of others with no interruptions; try not to be repetitious/redundant; attack issues, not individuals; stay focused on issues at hand; maintain an even temperament; and stay focused on Town's needs.

The Board conversed on race related issues with various Board members giving their opinions or experiences on the matter. Mr. Mosely acted as facilitator, and at the end of the session, commented that the group had great dialogue on the issues of race, but had not touched on diversity issues such as the gay community, age related issues, physical or mental challenges, sex discrimination, or non-traditional religious groups. He suggested that the Board think about Davie in past and present historical terms, give consideration to what had been discussed, and what other diverse groups that needed to be considered. Mr. Mosely suggested that the Board might want to change from a diversity based Study Circle to a race related Study Circle. He advised the Board that they may want to start considering sponsors, entities, media, and coalition participants that would contribute to the format.

Mr. Mosely stated that he had been speaking to the Human Resources Director Mark Alan about organizing Study Circles for Town employees who interact with the public. He has also spoken with Chief George about Study Circles and a new format within the National Resource Center that addressed police community relations.

Mr. Mosely stated that he would be available for the March 26th meeting to have a follow-up Study Circle.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Telephone Action Requests**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**4.2 Board Absenteeism**

Chair Clark passed the gavel and made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtis, to move item 4.2 to the next meeting. In a voice vote with Mr. Blanco dissenting, and with Ms. Brown, Ms. Gilhauley, and Ms. Vesser being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 7-1).

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

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**6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Chair Clark discussed the upcoming parade and presented the Board with draft designs of the theme "Bringing Davie Together" for a banner for the Board. She also stated that the magnets had come in and she would bring them to the March 26th meeting. Chair Clark asked the Board for sponsorship ideas and suggestions. She advised the Board to call Ms. McDaniel with any ideas. Ms. McDaniel informed the Board that Public Works/Capital Projects Director Bruce Bernard had advised that he had two banners for the float and on the back of the float there would be a world made out of wood, along with flowers along the railings.

Chair Clark advised the Board that the original Girl Scout group would not be available to carry the flags, but another Girl Scout group was available to walk either in front of the float or beside it.

Vice-Chair Wayne Arnold offered to sponsor the Board's banner if Public Works did not have the banners available.

Mr. Shaw stated that anytime he dealt with the Town, he always had very positive experiences. He mentioned that Mr. Bernard was very helpful and also commented positively with his experience with Chief Engineering Inspector John Phillips.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chair/Board Member